

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, MARR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF TURKISH MISSILES

REF: (A)ATHENS 10009, (B) STATE 231143

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER DATED SEPT 22 FROM
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT ELLSWORTH TO SENATOR
CLAIBORNE PELL REGARDING REDEPLOYMENT OF GREEK AND TURK-
ISH MILITARY FORCES IN THE AEGEAN AREA. EMBASSY ATHENS
MAY DRAW ON TEXT AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

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2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR SENATOR PELL: THANK YOU FOR YOUR

LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 15 CONCERNING MY RECENT TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. I WANT TO ASSURE
YOU THAT WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE AEGEAN AND THE DANGER TO THE PEACE THAT THESE
DEVELOPMENTS REPRESENT.

IT IS REGRETTABLY TRUE THAT OVER WHAT IS NOW AN EXTENDED
PERIOD OF TIME BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY HAVE MOVED TO
STRENGTHEN THEIR RESPECTIVE MILITARY POSITIONS IN THE
GENERAL AEGEAN AREA. THESE MOVES HAVE INCLUDED THE
INTRODUCTION BY GREECE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT INTO THE
PREVIOUSLY DEMILITARIZED DODECANESE ISLANDS AND THE

REPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW AEGEAN COMMAND BY TURKEY.

MORE RECENTLY, THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO INSURE MILITARY READINESS IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT. WE ARE AWARE THAT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF MILITARY REDEPLOYMENT WAS INVOLVED IN THESE MEASURES BUT THESE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN LIMITED IN SCOPE. I WOULD REITERATE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT WE ARE AWARE OF NO EVIDENCE OF REDEPLOYMENT OF ANY MISSILE OR MISSILE-EQUIPPED UNITS IN TURKEY.

THE RECENT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CALLING ON GREECE AND TURKEY TO RESUME BILATERAL TALKS ON THEIR DIFFERENCES IN THE AEGEAN HAS CONTRIBUTED TO SOME REDUCTION IN THESE RECENT TENSIONS AND HOPEFULLY WILL SEE A RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS THAT EVERYONE AGREES ARE ESSENTIAL. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, TENSION REMAINS SUFFICIENTLY HIGH AS TO CAUSE SUCH STATEMENTS AS THAT SUGGESTING TURKEY HAS SHIFTED PERSHING MISSILES OR ANY OTHER MISSILES TO ITS AEGEAN COAST TO RECEIVE INTENSE PUBLICITY IN GREECE AND TO DEEPEN PUBLIC SUSPICION THERE OF BOTH TURKISH INTENTIONS AND OUR ROLE IN TURKEY. I KNOW YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, BOTH TO THE OUTLOOK FOR PROGRESS IN THE AEGEAN AND OUR OWN EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN OUR IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. SINCERELY, ROBERT ELLSWORTH.

END TEXT. KISSINGER
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